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\$980,000 IN INCENTIVES AVAILABLE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

Montpelier, VT –Commissioner David O’Brien announced today that the Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS) will provide \$500,000 to the “*Vermont Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program*” to support photovoltaic, solar hot water, and small-scale wind installations. The Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program will also receive an additional \$238,000 of incentive funds for solar electric and solar hot water systems from Central Vermont Public Service and Green Mountain Power for customers in their service territories. Combined with money from the initial Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program a total of **\$980,000** will be available for incentives.

Governor Douglas signed the Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program into law in June 2003. Since its inception the program has provided \$1,373,920 in incentives to support the installation of 345 renewable energy systems. The Renewable Energy Resource Center (RERC) at the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation administers the Vermont Solar and Small Wind Incentive Program.

The incentive program will provide grants to individuals, businesses, farms, schools, and municipalities for a portion of the cost of installing small-scale solar and wind systems. Some notable changes being made to the program include allowing farms to qualify for a larger wind incentive of \$4.50/Watt up to a maximum of \$20,000 (schools and local/state government are already eligible for this level of incentive). Also low-income multi-family housing buildings will be eligible for a solar electric incentive of \$3.50/Watt up to \$35,000. The new incentive funding is expected to support the installation of approximately 210 new renewable energy systems throughout the state, which could generate an estimated 425 MWh of electricity annually.

“This program demonstrates our commitment to clean, renewable, distributed energy generation,” said O’Brien. “Also by offering funding to farms, schools, local and state government facilities, and low-income multi-family housing, assistance is being provided to those who need it the most and will in the end benefit all Vermont citizens.”

The \$500,000 being provided by DPS is a portion of the \$1.3 million in Clean Energy Development Funds that was appropriated by the VT Legislature and approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee for spending prior to December 1, 2006. The Clean Energy

Development Fund (CEDF) was established in 2005 through ACT 74 and is funded through proceeds due to the state under the terms of two memoranda of understanding between the DPS and Entergy. The purpose of the CEDF is to promote the development and deployment of cost-effective and environmentally sustainable electric power resources for the long-term benefit of Vermont electric customers. The CEDF will receive payments between \$6.0 - 7.2 million annually from Entergy through 2012.

Anyone interested in applying for incentives should go to the Renewable Energy Resource Center website (www.nerc-vt.org/incentives) to obtain a list of qualified Solar and Wind installers and to download the reservation incentive forms. This information can also be obtained by calling the RERC hotline toll free at 1-877-888-7372. The RERC website also has a "Clean Power Estimator" to help customers evaluate the economics, energy production, and environmental benefits of installing a solar or wind system.

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